

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF FREDERICK COUNTY WORKSHOP
MINUTES
Tuesday, April 28, 2020**

Council Members M.C. Keegan-Ayer, President; Michael Blue, Vice-President, Jerry Donald, Kai Hagen, Jessica Fitzwater, Phil Dacey and Steve McKay were present for the meeting.

Also present were Ragen Cherney, Chief of Staff, County Council; Bryon Black, Assistant County Attorney; Sarah Ambrosio, Recording Secretary; and Sydnee Klimko, Legislative Analyst, County Council.

Council President M.C. Keegan-Ayer called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. virtually via video conference.

Opening Statement from Council President M.C. Keegan-Ayer

Good Evening and welcome to the virtual meeting of the Frederick County Council. Today is Tuesday, April 28, 2020.

In light of the coronavirus pandemic and the State of Emergency that exists in Maryland, the Frederick County Council will be conducting all of our meetings on-line during this time.

The Council will operate with our normal agenda with a few modifications specifically for the public. This is our first virtual meeting so please be patient as we work out some of the challenges associated with having so many people working remotely.

With the aid of technology, the Council members and any presenters will appear on screen utilizing Microsoft Teams software. As President, I will recognize each council member or speaker by name for the public. Our procedures may move more slowly at first but we should pick up as we become more familiar with these changes.

Our meetings will continue to be televised on Frederick County Government Channel 19, on Frederick County Government's website: www.FrederickCountyMD.Gov, and also live streamed on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/FrederickCountyMD>

On our legislative days, we will still be accepting public comment for the first 15 minutes of the meeting. These comments can be made via email (Councilmembers@frederickcountymd.gov), or via Facebook (Frederick County Government). These comments will be reflected in our minutes of the meeting with the name of the speaker and subject matter. We will also accept comments at the end of the meeting and add them to the record. Again, these comments will be reflected in the minutes by the name of the speaker and the subject and will be shown at the conclusion of the meeting minutes. An important change during this time of virtual meetings, we will be accepting comments from the public until 5:00 pm on the following business day and all will be included in the minutes. This means if we have a meeting on Tuesday (as is our regular meeting day, the public may submit their comments until 5:00 pm on Wednesday.

Comments can also be left on the Council's phone number at: 301-600-1135. Verbal comments will be transcribed and added to the record.

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During these virtual meetings, I will periodically stop to allow the members to ask any questions they might have on the issue being discussed...I will call the council members by name and will proceed in alphabetical order for any questions as well as any roll call votes to make sure the public is aware of which member has the floor for speaking and how each council member votes.

As a caution to our Council Members – Please be respectful of each other's time and wait to be recognized by me before you begin to speak. Unfortunately with this particular format if more than one person is talking at one time, the microphone goes dead and there is no sound. This will create problems for the viewing public, will cause confusion making it difficult for the public to fully understand what's going on. So please wait to be recognized. I will call you in alphabetical order, so formulate your question and you will be prepared when I get to you. If you do not have a question, just say pass....

I want to thank our Council staff who have all been hard at work with the County's Interagency Information Technologies Division, the County Attorney's Office and the Director of Communications to develop the ability for us to conduct our meetings using an on-line format so that we can continue to provide essential county services during the State of Emergency while we deal with this global coronavirus pandemic. As Council President, I wanted to hold the first virtual meeting specifically with less-essential items to allow the members, staff and the public to become acquainted with this new and hopefully very short temporary process. Despite the stay-at-home directives, the Council must continue to carry out our responsibilities to provide for the orderly continuation of county government activities and functions. This virtual format will allow us to meet those responsibilities. In addition, this shortened agenda today will allow time for the County Executive to join us for an update on the corona virus, which you will see I added to our agenda this morning.

It is my intention to begin to schedule in-person meetings again as soon as possible. However, the health and safety of the residents of Frederick County is of the utmost importance at this time. I want to assure the public we will re-schedule any of the postponed items when this virus is better contained, the danger to the general public is significantly reduced and gathering in large crowds is once again permitted. Until then, I urge every resident to stay at home and follow the lead and direction of our public health officials to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Further, I encourage all our residents to follow updates posted in the Frederick County Health Department's website (<https://health.frederickcountymd.gov/>).

To begin our meeting, I will start with a roll call vote to determine a quorum, since not everyone is visible on the screen. Just respond with "here". Again, going in alphabetical order: CM Blue, Dacey, Donald, Fitzwater, Hagen, and McKay. The President conducted a roll call of the members. All seven (7) council members responded in the affirmative.

Now, please join us for a moment of silence, please remember those who are working so hard to contain this deadly disease, all those working on the front lines, the doctors, nurses, hospital staff, the emergency responders, the families and friends of those who have been sickened and are fighting for their lives, and unfortunately those who have lost their battle and have died..

The meeting began with a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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FY 2021 Budget Kick-Off Presentation

Rick Harcum, Budget Office, Office of the County Executive; Kelly Weaver, Director, Budget Office, presented information to the Council on the FY 2021 Budget.

Frederick County Coronavirus Response Update

County Executive Jan Gardner; Dr. Barbara Brookmyer, State Supervisor Health Officer, County of Frederick; Sheriff Chuck Jenkins; Thomas Coe, Division Director Fire Chief, Fire and Rescue Services; Jack Markey, Division Director, Emergency Preparedness and Management; Helen Propheter, Director, Office of Economic Development provided updates to the Council on the Coronavirus Response measures.

Public Comment was heard from:

- Tommy Davis

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

M.C. Keegan-Ayer, President
County Council